

# NEXT NCCC MEETING

**DATE: Monday, September 11, 6:30 PM**  
**Old Spaghetti Factory**  
**Jack London Square, Oakland**  
**October "Sierra Chapter" Meeting**  
**September 23 in Reno, NV**  
**INFO & DIRECTIONS INSIDE**  
**and you can *always* check:**  
<http://www.nccc.cc/meetings.html>

# YOUR DUES ARE DUE!!! New "perque" for Members!

The NCCC 75 meter net meets on Thursdays at 9PM, 3830kHz approximately

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### September Contests Dates

September Contests	Dates
All Asian DX Contest, SSB	Sep 2 - 3
IARU Region 1 Field Day, SSB	Sep 2-3
Panama Anniversary Contest	Sep 3
MI QRP Club Labor Day CW Sprint	Sep 4 -5
WAE DX Contest, SSB	Sep 9 - 10
IRCC Bison Stampede (Indiana QP)	Sep 9 - 10
ARRL September VHF QSO Part	Sep 9 - 11
North American Sprint, CW	Sep 10
YLRL Howdy Days	Sep 15 - 17
Air Force Anniversary QSO Party,	Sep 16 - 17
ARRL 10 GHz Cumulative Contest	Sep 16 - 17
Scandinavian Activity Contest, CW	Sep 16 -17
Washington State Salmon Run	Sep 16 -17
QCWA QSO Party	Sep 16 - 17
North American Sprint, SSB	Sep 17
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY	Sep 23- 24
Scandinavian Activity Contest, SSB	Sep 23 - 24
2000 6m Activity Contest	Sep 26
Texas QSO Party	Sep 30 - Oct 1

## October Contests Dates

RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, SSB,	Oct 1
VK/ZL/Oceania Contest, Phone,	Oct 7 - Oct 8
EU Autumn Sprint, SSB,	Oct 7
California QSO Party,	Oct 7 - 8
Iberoamericano Contest	Oct 7 - 8
10-10 Day Sprint	Oct 10
VK/ZL/Oceania Contest, CW,	Oct 14 - 15
YLRL Anniversary Party, CW,	Oct 16
EU Autumn Sprint, CW,	Oct 14
Pennsylvania QSO Party,	Oct 14 - 15
FISTS Fall Sprint,	Oct 14
Asia-Pacific Sprint, CW,	Oct 15
North American Sprint, RTTY,	Oct 15
RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest, CW,	Oct 15
JARTS WW RTTY Contest,	Oct 22
QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party,	Oct 22
Worked All Germany Contest,	Oct 21 - 22
2000 6m Activity Contest,	Oct 24
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB,	Oct 29
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, CW,	Oct 28 - 29
YLRL Anniversary Party, SSB, Oct	28 - 30

### And in November, don't miss:

<b>ARRL SWEEPSTAKES</b>	CW	Nov 4-5
	SSB	Nov 18-19

For a complete calendar, log submission details, and due dates visit:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.htm>

## RECENT SCORES

### NAQP CW

NCCC# 1		TOTAL	549,514
N6RO	675 x 200		135,000
K6AW @ W6NL	690 x 187		129,030
AE6Y	604 x 169		102,076
K6TA	585 x 173		101,205
K5RC	517 x 159		82,203

NCCC#2		TOTAL	48,636
K6III	262 x 107		28,034
N6ZFO	209 x 89		18,601
W6ISO	69 x 40		2,001

### NAQP SSB

NCCC#1		TOTAL	415,016
N6BZA	706 x 168		118,608
AE6Y	709 x 165		116,985
K6III	737 x 142		104,654
AK6L	478 x 130		62,140
N6ZFO	173 x 73		12,629

NCCC#2		TOTAL	52,782
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K6EP	355 x 125	44,375
N6EM	112 x 65	7,280
AA6W	49 x 23	1,127

### Multi-twos

N6RO	1541 x 232	357,512
(K6AW, K3EST, K2KW)		
K7GJ	582 x 160	93,120
(K5RC, N0AX)		

### Other club scores:

W6YX(N6DE)	602 x 169	101,738
W6ISO	480 x 140	67,200
K6TA	270 x 107	28,890

### SARTG Contest

N2ALE/6	23 QSOs 24 mult	6,240
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### Keyman's Club of JA

K6XX	279 x 114	31,806
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# DOUBLE CROSS

## September Gatherings

As a special treat, we have in store for you not one, but TWO meetings this month! The first, held on our regular second Monday of the month date, will be at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Jack London Square (Oakland), and will feature hot tips from our California QSO Party "panel of experts". We need a head-count, so please let treasurer Kit, W6ISO, know that you're coming before September 7<sup>th</sup>.

The second meeting will be held in Reno on September 23rd. K5RC has organized a fine meeting location and program at the Hilton. The program is "Contesting with Wire Antennas Big and Small," presented by K5AF. If you will stay overnight at the Reno Hilton, you can get the \$99 special rate by booking under the block reserved for "Productivity Resources." We hope to see you at both meetings.

## Could This be Your Last JUG?

We certainly hope not... but unless your dues have been paid, that is exactly what will happen! We must live within our budget, and plan on continuing doing so without increasing dues, but cannot without your participation. Your \$24 check means a lot to the club—about half of it goes back into awards for us members, with the remainder carefully doled out for other important functions and necessities (refer to the

printed budget in the August JUG, page 3, for the gory details). You are a member of the world's most successful radio club—one with a proud winning history and a very bright future. Please continue your association with the NCCC by renewing your membership—mail your renewal form included in this issue!

### **Another Membership Perque**

*(NB: "perque" is a high class "perk", and that's what this is! ... ed)*

The NCCC's Sweepstakes Handbook is undergoing final editing for this year's SS, and copies will be ready free to members in good standing by the Reno gathering. If you'd like a copy on CD-ROM mailed to you, send our treasurer, Kit, W6ISO, a couple of bucks for postage, etc. (or include two extra bucks and a request with your renewal, hi) and we'll ship it to you as soon as it is ready. The Handbook will also be posted to our password-protected Members- Only web site.

### **Bring A Friend Continues**

The "Bring a Friend" contest, begun with the August meeting, continues through November. Remember, everyone who brings a non-member amateur to a meeting gets one point. If the visitor signs up, the host gets another point. When the new member submits one log for our major operating event, the host picks up three additional points. Both modes? Three plus a two point bonus adds five more points. That's a possibility of ten points per guest you bring. A valuable prize will be presented to the winner at our holiday party on December 11th. Vic, KF6RIP, presently has a slight lead, but I know you can catch up!

### **Forecast: Conditions Improving**

As we revolve toward the equinox, HF conditions will soon reach their annual best. With the peaking sunspots, this contest season will be the best in a decade—maybe the best ever. CQP is practically upon us already. Now is the time for making the final adjustments to your station; lots of fun is in store!

73 de Bob, K6XX

**P.S. Mail your renewal form and check to W6ISO today.**

# ALL THAT JAZZ!

It was great to see NCCC activity in the recent North American QSO parties, particularly by newcomers to the NAQP. This contest served to not only hook some new enthusiasts, but to show some of us what needs to be done with our stations and software setups before the bigger events of the fall season are here.

There are two other good warm-ups for Sweepstakes, the North American Sprints in September, and the NCCC sponsored California QSO Party in early October. Sprints are the most challenging four hours in contesting for most of us, primarily because of the unique QSY rule – you can't sit on a frequency and run stations! What a concept. Still, the top scorers can attain rates over 100 Qs per hour, by being very agile and intuitive. W6CT will be organizing 10 man teams of club members for the CW Sprint, 5 – 9 PM, on Saturday, Sept. 9. I will do the same (on the email reflector) for the SSB event on Sept. 16. We might even run some mini-sprints on the Thursday night nets, 9 PM, Sept 7 & 14, near 3830. Drop by and have some fun/learn the game.

A good time to practice your rate-running skills, will be in the October 7-8 CQP. Californians will be the center of attention and in demand on all bands, both modes. The September meeting(s) will have panel discussions on all facets of CQP. I suspect there will be discussions on the club reflector and the 75m net on Thursdays, 9 PM, near 3830.

The culmination of all your practicing and station improvement should be the ARRL Sweepstakes, which was voted by the membership, to be our major club competition of the fall season. Please circle the dates, CW Nov. 4-5, and SSB, Nov 18-19, and clear your calendars to help NCCC retain the unlimited club championship. It will take EVERYONE in the club to make this happen! If you haven't sent in 2001 dues, do so now, so you can get the next few JUGs which will highlight operating the SS. We need you all to keep the club strong in all ways, not just in making big scores.

CU in the Sprints!

73, Ken N6RO

# FLASH

Dateline GUAM. Exclusive to the JUG. Original NCCC'er James A. Maxwell, W6CF, now on a visitation mission to far flung Pacific Islands and the Far East which are within his PACIFIC DIVISION territory has just issued a COMMUNIKAY stating that he has searched through his "old smelly collection" of bygone JUGS and has found many of the original ICONS requested by the JUG last issue. The original NCCC motto, tree, animal, fight song, alma mater and other stirring information. Some of these actually have been located in his arkives. He will make a fuller report when he returns. Try to control yourselves and not bother CF until he makes his report to the JUG.

Thank you es 73, W6ISQ

# SB 1714: Action Needed!

*(Al, NH7A, points out that this W6CF update is of critical importance to ALL contesters... ed)*

SB-1714 finally worked its way through the California Legislature on Monday, Aug. 22. On that date the Senate agreed to the several amendments made after initially approving it almost three months ago. The Senate vote followed the Assembly's acceptance of SB-1714 on Friday, Aug. 18. The bill is now on its way to Governor Gray Davis. We now must consider very seriously what will happen when the bill reaches the Governor's desk.

Governor Davis, as we all know, pays close attention to the cost of legislation, and rightly so. The Senate Appropriations Committee estimated that the study called for by SB-1714 will cost the taxpayers some \$70,000 to \$100,000, and the Assembly analyst accepted that figure. Although that cost is small in the context of the overall state budget, it's large enough to attract notice. We should therefore try very hard to convince the Governor that it is in the best interests of the citizens of California for him to sign SB-1714.

We need letters to that effect!

Please, if you agree with SB-1714, sit down, right now, and write a letter to Governor Davis. A sample letter to him is given below. You may write to him in three different ways:

- Email to [graydavis@governor.ca.gov](mailto:graydavis@governor.ca.gov)
- FAX to 916-445-4633
- Snail mail to Governor Gray Davis. State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Full details on the bill itself can be found at:

<http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?>

[bill\\_number=sb\\_1714&sess=CUR&house=B](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/postquery?bill_number=sb_1714&sess=CUR&house=B)

## Sample letter

(Note that any letter incorporating these ideas, particularly addressing the issue that it is going to cost the State some money to study this, and it is money well spent, should be helpful. State analysts estimate the cost of the studies required by the legislation at \$70,000 to \$100,000.)

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Dear Governor Davis:

I am writing to you to urge your support of SB-1714, a bill designed to provide some relief to amateur radio operators who require antenna structures to pursue their interest in communications.

The proliferation of cellular telephones has caused concern in many communities about the appearance of commercial antenna structures. In attempting to deal with this, municipal governments have tended to lump together all antennas, ignoring the roles the Amateur Radio service has traditionally played in providing public service and backup emergency communications in support of the Governor's Office of Emergency services and of municipal emergency service organizations.

I believe that this legislation addresses both the concerns of municipalities in maintaining for everyone a reasonable quality of life and the Amateur Radio service in maintaining its ability to communicate and to play the roles it always has.

The provision of the legislation for study and report by the Governor's Office of Policy and Research should ensure that every interest will be considered and that an ultimate result in the best interests of all Californians will be achieved. The funds required for the study, considering the enormous value that the State and municipalities have received from being able to call on Amateur licensees to provide equipment and volunteer hours in emergencies, is money well spent to preserve a valuable asset.

Please sign SB-1714 into law.

Sincerely,

<your signature>

<Your name and address>

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Thanks to Harry Styron, K6HS, for preparing the sample letter given above.

# 160 Meter Antenna Ideas Shared

One Sixty is terra incognita for me in my log.  
But after 42 years

The NAQP nears  
So Eighty's the dipole to flog.

In 42 years of hamming, I had never tried 160, but for my first NAQP, I decided to see what I could do, since mults count on that band as well. Given limited time, all I ended up with was running the TS 950SDX into my 80-meter rotatable dipole. It performed, in a word, poorly. Hoping to get some ideas for possible improvement before the January version of the contests, I put out a message on the NCCC reflector asking for help. Several guys asked that I share the responses (none of which I've put into practice yet). Here's the original message:

Help!

For NAQP, it turns out that 160 is a helpful band to be on, because mults count on each band. In CW, I made 4 Q's in 3 mults, by loading up my 80m rotatable dipole, but I didn't feel at all loud and couldn't hear much. (BTW: these were my first 160m qso's in 42 years of hamming, hi..) My best DX was W0UA. Query: what's the absolute simplest thing I can do before next weekend to get out better on 160? I have a 65 foot tower with a 3el 20/2el 40, a rotary 80m dipole a few feet above that, and a small 3 el 15/3 el 10 a few feet above that (all Force 12). I also have an R7000 for the second radio.

Is there any simple way to improve the situation? I'm going to be away all this weekend, so will have very little time to try out ideas.

Here are the replies:

1) from W6ISQ: I thank you for asking the question about 160 ants. I used to have a sloper on 80 and 75. It was strictly mechanical and I had to go outside to clip on another 6 feet of zip cord wire to move from phone to cw. But it worked very well. I worked over 170 with it!

Then I added another clip-on 65 feet or so that I could pull and stretch to be about 4-5 feet off the ground. That 65 feet of zip cord ran downhill to put the thing on 160. It worked well, but I had to crawl through rose bushes and thru a bunch of tree branches to get the thing stretched out. It was not great fun in the middle of the night.

I was thinking of a permanent "extra" 65 feet up on poles or branches that I could clip on as needed to get on 160. The trouble is that when I put up new HF beams few years ago, I took down the switch box connection I used for the 80 sloper which was at top of tower (which I could run up with motor to about 50 feet which was operating height.)

I think I'll try to hire someone to go back up and build up that connection again, because it really was

easy to use and seemed to work well on both 75-80 and 160.

2) from AD6E: I used a roof mounted Butternut HF2V for 160 for a few years, but I felt it was pretty poor.

Probably the best result would be from a sloper. I use one for 80 and it works great. I don't have the lot size for 160, but you probably do. A sloper for 160 is about 130ft long. The good news is that it doesn't have to be in a straight line. Go from the tower top to the far corner of your lot, then fold back any extra wire along the fence line. Be sure the coax shield is connected to the tower at the feed point. I use a simple automotive hose clamp to run a short wire from the tower to my coax switch box. Scratch off the galvanized crud to get a good clamp connection, then RTV the whole clamp.

The sloper is easily trimmed to 50 ohms, direct feed at the tower top. Bandwidth is about what you'd expect with a dipole. Of course, my tower is about 65ft which is awfully close to 1/4 wave on 80... thus the analogy to an inverted vee. I haven't tried this trick on 160 myself, but I've heard it works fine. W6OSP uses a sloper from the top of his 80ft tower and I know that works.

3) from KG6I: I'd have to agree the inverted L is the most popular, but it is limited to a single band. I chose to run a full wave loop for 160, about 548 feet in circumference, and feed it with "450 ohm", closer to 390 ohms actually, ladder line and a HB tuner. That way I can use it on 160, 80 and 40. My 160 count so far is 154/152 with it, and it performs fine on 80 and super on 40, where it is 4 wl long. It does require at least two high supports though. I use conveniently-spaced 100 ft+ redwood trees.

4) from N6BZA: I asked the exact same question on rec.radio.antennas a couple of days ago. The consensus seems to be an inverted L, either with a single raised 'radial' or with the best ground radials you can manage. A height of 124' or so for the vertical part, as much as you can string up the tower, then the rest pulled off to a tree or the ground if necessary.

5) from W6OSP: If your lot is big enough put up a sloper. I have 145 countries here with one.

6) from K6RB: I've had very good luck with a half-sloper, inductance-loaded, from the top of my 50 foot crank-up tower to a 7 foot high wooden fence. The angle between wire and tower is approximately 70 degrees, and it slopes SE (the slightly favored direction.) I've worked 45 states in the ARRL 160 with it, and it's easy to put up.

7) from W6RGG: You may not care for this suggestion, but it works for me! Listen on 160 with all of your antennas. The antenna that hears the best, will be heard the best. I use my 5L 20M yagi on 160, with 10 watts output (I don't have a tuner which will work on 160, so that's the power reduction caused by the high SWR circuitry in my rig!), and have worked a few decent mults on the band. If you have a tuner that will match your "best" 160 antenna for transmitting, give it a try!

8) from K2KW: Long term, loading the tower would be FB with that large top-hat.

For a quickie but effective antenna, I would install a wire Inverted-L, and a few haphazard radials for getting on quickly. Tie a rope at the top of the tower for the upper support of the vertical section, but try to get the wire about 5' or so (made up number) away from the tower section. The L-section doesn't need to be horizontal; it can slope downwards. It probably would be worth it to install one or two elevated radials, rather than ground mounted.

9) from K6XX: Can you drop a wire down from the 65 foot level to ground, and string another out the rest of a quarter wave (approx. 65 more feet) out to some tree, etc? The ole inverted-L does a pretty good job on 160. I'd worry a little that the horizontal 65' run might mess up your 40 or 80m antennas, though, so run it straight toward a favored direction (perpendicular to the dipole/yagi elements.) Run a quarter wave elevated radial (or two), and you'll really be in biz. As "Team Vertical" demonstrated, you can do your resonating by adjusting the low-level radials.

10) from N6DE: I don't have a good answer, but can at least tell you that I have made a surprising amount of QSOs in 160m contests by loading up my R7000. Since it is the only antenna I have up, it was my only option. Your 80m dipole probably hears better than the vertical on 160, but the R7000 is an interesting data point.

73, Andy, AE6Y

## K2KW TRIES A CONTEST FROM STATESIDE!

BAND	QSO	QSO-PTS	PTS/Q	ZONES	HQ STNS
20	450	1848	4.11	35	12
15	259	951	3.67	26	17
10	6	16	2.67	4	2

Totals 715 2815 3.94 65 31  
Score: 270,240 points

WRTC Calls Worked: 51 (I went for WRTC QSO totals, not a clean sweep)

WRTC QSOs: 105 (all on 15+20)

First, thanks to Tom and Bonnie for their great hospitality again! Unfortunately, their faithful dog & companion "Oreo" passed away a short time ago, and it was a lonely house without him.

I mainly went to Tom's just to work as many WRTC QSOs as I could, and also to schmooze and hang out with Tom. This was not a serious IARU effort. With WWV numbers at Flux=200, A=7, and K=1, one would think we would have great conditions! ...NOT! So much for propagation theory.

At the beginning of the contest, not a peep was heard from EU, so I turned the antenna towards JA, and was rewarded by a run of loud and numerous 20m JA's. I waited and waited for the bands to open to EU, but they opened later and weaker than usual. Fifteen took a long time to open, but WRTC signals were good when it did, though the 15m daylight opening was short lived. Ten meters - what happened? During the contest, I was chatting with my friend Scott, W4SO, who did a 4 hour stint at W1AW/4 on 10m in the morning (which usually rips into EU at that time). In 4 hours, Scott could only muster around 180 QSOs. It says a lot about conditions when even W1AW/4 can't work anything.

It was fun to take note of the packet pileups. There would be a deep pileup on one station, and none on the next guy up the band. While most everyone was wasting time in one or two pileups, I just checked the other packet spots, and I often was the only caller. Once I worked the guys who didn't have a large pileup, I went back to the ones that did have one a few minutes before; now these guys were begging for QSOs.

In the end, I worked about half of my WRTC QSOs from packet spots, half via S&P, and 2 WRTC guys called me!

I agree with the other comments that the signal levels were very similar. Any differences were likely due to antenna direction, and nuances that are impossible to overcome when you are trying to find 53 "like" QTHs. I was going to make a list of signal levels, but as I started to find the guys, I realized their signal levels were so close, that there was really nothing worthwhile to report on. The choice to use mountain tops was a good one, as it gave the stations the extra boost needed it to make the path to California!

As I was operating the contest, I started to reflect on the SPRINT contests. The WRTC 2000 style of

operating (based on the scoring) and the fact they were barefoot, meant these guys had to move around a lot. Even though some of the packet spots were only minutes old, the WRTC guys had often moved, and with the limited propagation we had from California, it was tough to nail the WRTC ops, as their timing to achieve maximum rate probably didn't overlap well with our openings. This was most apparent during the evening 15m opening (around 03-05z). EU signals were strong, but only a few WRTC guys showed up and tried (too long) to eke out a few QSOs. They probably needed to be on 20/40 at that time, even though there was a good path on 15 to CA, the overall 15m rate wasn't good enough. I would also surmise that if there were only a few guys on 15m, that many of the competitors were using similar band philosophies. I hope some of WRTC guys write some info on their operating philosophies!!

Many of you probably read the article in the July QST that Tom wrote on lightbulb antennas. I helped Tom with a lot of that material. After reading the article, I hope you started thinking about what is really required to achieve a QSO in terms of antenna gain; and though not specified, ERP required to make the path. It was interesting for me to go to a packet spot, and barely hear a WRTC station. It took a long time for me to piece their calls together in my head (I wouldn't blindly call a spot until I verified the call). Yet, I would often work these guys on the first call! (but realizing they were actually coming back to me was different story!) It was interesting to note that even though these guys were on a hilltop with a tribander, they didn't have enough ERP to reliably make the path back to me. I had enough antenna gain and ERP to make it to them, but even with their fine locations and decent antennas, they often didn't have enough gain to make the path back to me. It really makes you wonder how many guys are really calling you, that you never hear?? And how much extra RX antenna gain (on your/my side) is really needed to add that extra layer of callers? Heck, if I could barely hear 100w + tribander on a hilltop, what about all the guys with indoor dipoles etc. that are probably hearing the big gun stations, yet don't have enough ERP to make the path back? Oh my!

On Copying: "5NN 6" was my report... and it was interesting to hear the pause by so many stations... I guess they assumed I was in zone 8, and had to go back and fix the log! Hmm... I wonder if a lot of these guys let their software do the zone logging for them, and didn't copy everything that was sent! This often happens in the CQWW as a lot of people get complacent about logging zones, yet you have to be careful about logging the USA and ex USSR countries, because their zones can vary.

In closing, I was generally impressed with the operating abilities of the ops. While some commented that ops didn't sign often enough, I actually felt they signed too often! (often after every QSO). BTW Bruce, since you were trained in the Caribbean, does that mean you don't sign your call either. There was only one exception I noted... S576K seemed out of his league on CW, and had a hard time with the pileup... he would send "TU" after every transmission, even if he didn't mean the QSO was over:

pileup...  
K2KW: "K2KW"  
S576K: "K2?W TU"  
K2KW: "K2KW"  
S576K: "K2KW 5NN 28 TU"  
K2KW: "5NN 6"  
S576K: "TU"

The resulting confusion left one of the ugliest pileups I had heard in a long time! The only way you got through was adopting European calling practices: call often, and on top of everyone else.

Cheers, Kenny, K2KW

## Caymanian's view of WRTC from the West Coast

Here are some disconnected observations on WRTC as heard from the SF Bay area.

I still remember some of the zinging criticism we suffered in 1996 regarding the inequality of WRTC stations. ZD8Z was one of the most vocal, as I recall, and Jim made a big point that from his perch the stations were anything BUT equal. Naturally, several of the competitors who finished in the bottom half of the rankings voiced the same complaint. So this weekend I made a concerted effort to try to observe how the S5 guys did on station equalization and not get distracted by the rest of the contest.

My IARU contest effort was strictly S&P, and that S&P was for WRTC stations only. I did buzz a few friends I heard who were serious about the contest, but only a few. In the spirit of the thing, I really went slumming: I plugged in the mike and hooked up to packet. Ugh! It felt just like visiting a tattoo parlor down by the docks. But if the focus is finding WRTC stations, I guess you have to do both. During the contest, I made many notes into the .not file, trying to record an honest signal strength reading every time I heard one of the stations.



When the opening on 20 finally died last night, I had only managed to get 90 WRTC contacts into the log. (A little different from 1996, when I got 353.) All of those contacts were on 15 or 20; I never heard a hint the WRTC stations could be heard here on the west coast on 10 or 40, and I did keep checking often when it might have been possible. There were 5 of the stations I never did manage to find. Who knows? They may have been pitifully weak stations that couldn't make it out... or the operators may have had better sense than to chase water-weak W6 stations when they could run the locals at a rapid clip. Those stations were S5333G, S544Z, S571W, S576K, and S583D.

For the other 47 stations, though, my personal feeling is that the S5 guys did an incredibly good job of equalizing stations. I have readings in my .not file that are all over the map, but the variation tends to be a function of time rather than variations among stations when readings were taken at the same time. A few times I found stations who were much weaker than the others and thought I had found some real loser stations, but then later readings on the same station showed no difference. For example, I have a note at 1613Z that S549L was S9 and the strongest station yet heard, while 2 minutes later I recorded S517W as barely audible at S2. An hour later, though, I heard S517W right up there with the strongest stations. The difference earlier was probably just due to beam heading.

Signals here on Saturday morning were simply awful. Almost none of them showed any indication on my meter, and they were ESP at best. That's the period of ~1630Z until ~2015. My rate at 2000Z was about 2/hour, so that's when I decided then it was time to go to church services for a while (St. John's Bar & Grill, next door to the Sunnyvale HRO). During that whole painful period, I could hear the east coast guys getting through one after another, no problem. Out here, I could only hear something for maybe 20% of each QSB cycle. That was pure torture!

Once the sun set in S5, things sure seemed to pick up out here. Almost all of the signals I heard from ~2330Z until ~0700Z were in the range of S6 to S7, with an occasional strong S9. (S522R was 10dB over at 0409Z!)

I think by the time it got good here on the west coast, everybody else had thrown in the towel and decided to forget the contest. It was so bad, in fact, that I had two of the teams (S539D and S531R) move ME from SSB to CW in order to get a "rare" zone 6 contact. (Maybe it was rare because all the contesters were already in Bled?)

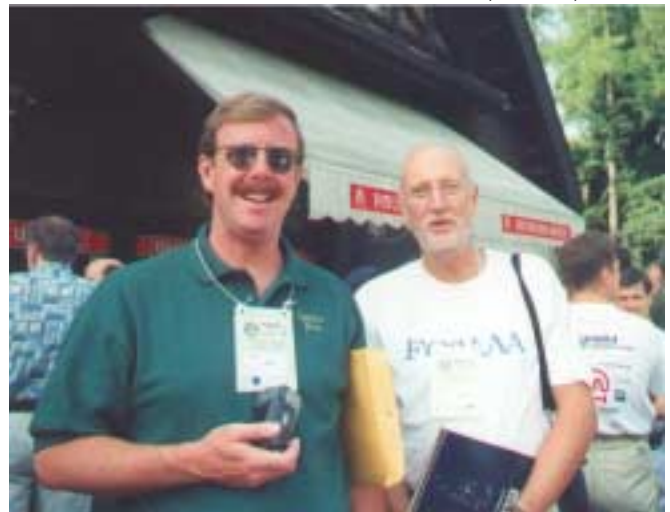
One unrelated observation I wonder if anybody else made was what seemed like a cavalier attitude on

accuracy by some of the teams. Many times I heard the WRTC station bust a call sign or come back to a partial, have the caller give a correction or a fill, and then the WRTC team just TU'd the caller and went on without ever giving a correction. This happened over and over to me, and once the TU is sent then the pile-up never gives you a chance to come back and be sure. Another gripe from this end was signing. Some of these guys would go for l-o-n-g stretches without ever giving their call. Several people gave a report to S526O and THEN asked for his call. Wrong! He just ignored them and went on. I finally gave up trying to figure out who this was and called him, then refused to give a report until he told me who he was. I don't know who any of the teams were, but I bet that guy got his contest training in the Caribbean!

The funniest incident: at 0539Z I ran into S574V on 20SSB, CQing away with very few callers. Reason: sitting right on the same frequency, and about 20dB stronger, was DL0DR, also CQing away. Naturally, DL0DR was getting all the answers. It took a long time before I could find the right moment to call S574V, when the DL station was quiet for a second, and I tried to tell the op there was a super-strong DL station right on top of him. His answer: in the most irritated tone of voice possible, "We know". This is a guy who is used to waging frequency fights with 6 over 6 over 6 over 6, and winning. (Probably one of the W3LPL gang.) It doesn't work that way with 100w into a tribander!

Anyway, back to the starting point, I think the S5 guys deserve a major round of applause for having put together at least 47 stations that were extremely well equalized. I don't know about the 5 I missed, but the 47 I did hear were incredibly well-matched. Good job!

73, Bruce, N6NT



Team NCCC members N6IG and K4UEE seem pleased at the callsign draw which gave them S546Q for the WRTC2000 festivities.



# New 6th District QSL Manager

After almost 27 years as Manager of the W6 Incoming QSL Bureau Archie Willis W6LPJ has decided to retire. Archie's dedication to the ARRL & amateurs in the 6th call area is an example to us all.

As many of you know Archie's wife & QSL Bureau Assistant Rosemary KF6EKP passed away earlier this year, Archie says that her death has left such a big blank that he feels he must step aside & let someone else take over, he is looking forward to having more time for himself. Please drop Archie a note & wish him well in his retirement, his e-mail address is:

[w6lpj@earthlink.net](mailto:w6lpj@earthlink.net)

Directors Heyn & Maxwell have approved a replacement for Archie. Over the next few weeks Archie will be getting together with New Bureau Manager Steve Frick, N6QEK,

[n6qek@arrl.net](mailto:n6qek@arrl.net)

to arrange the transfer etc. The W6 Incoming QSL Bureau will be moving from its present location in Sun Valley CA to San Diego, and its new address will be:

ARRL W6 Incoming QSL Bureau  
P.O. Box 900069  
San Diego, CA, 92190-0069

Please join me in welcoming Steve in his new & challenging position, I am sure that he will welcome any offers of help from you.

73, Martin Cook, N1FOC  
ARRL QSL Service Manager

## JUG EXCLUSIVE: Interview with 'XX

**JUG:** Mawnin' DOS. Nice klub meeting at the Yachet Club last time. Wasn't it nice that Ole Ed, W0YK, and Mary did such a great job of keeping the glasses full of the good stuff and young Kenny sauntering in with the pizzas! (Note: next time, more anchovies, pleez--TU). And it was very inspiring to hear JAZZNUTT lecturing about using two radios in contests. But you didn't say much about your experiences at WRTC. You liked it?

**DOS:** Oh yeah. The meeting was great. And it was a absolutely wonderful experience at WRTC. I was S5/K6XX from Bled. I met a lot of wonderful people. I can't wait for the next one.

**JUG:** But you just up and left your TBDs (Three Beautiful Daughters) without any fatherly guidance while you toodled around the Balkans.

**DOS:** No no no. They was busy planting another 3 acres of grapes. They never knew I was gone. Lil problem though. They planted 'em on the neighbors ranch proppity.

**JUG:** Don't want to hear about it! Got my own problems. I hear somebody awarded Animal Krackers (AKs) to fellas who had a by-lion in the JUG.

**DOS:** Well, of course, I got one 'cause of my Double XX colyume and JAZZNUTT got one because of his "2 Radios" info story. And N6IG and and K7NV and K6CTA wrote great stories into the JUG and had a billion. But they couldn't make the meeting to lasso their Animals. Some day they'll get there and lay claim to claim their Kraxes.

**JUG:** I think mebe this JUG we will read a good story from Pote-Loryet Andru, AE6Y. Probably about his town-lot 160 meters ants? If he don't put it on the reflecter first. I think NCCC now has about 117 active World Class Ops. There's gotta be more of them as would help out poor Ole "gdaught6" to fill up the JUG every month and help us City Lot QRPers to improve our contest stations.

**DOS:** Yeah. Maybe like get TV Bob to write about what is all the absolutely essential gadgets for every shack and without which no op cannot hope to be in the Top 7. Something new for the operating table, or under the table, that anyone can pick up at his radio emporium and put to use. He's our Gadget Expurt. If he don't have it, it ain't been invented yet.

**JUG:** Good. We'll ask him for JUG input.

**DOS:** Gadgets an Antennas is always good subjects for idees. Maybe we could get Livermore Larry, NF6S, to update his great article on the EWE which he put in the JUG 6-7 years ago. And he sez they are easy to put up. He put up his EWE over his swimming pool from one of his XYL's flower bed to another. He's a City Lot fella too, ya know.

**JUG:** Yeah, maybe he could comment on the EWE, Pennant, Flag article in July QST. Last I heard, Larry was gonna make a 4 direction assembly in his back yard. Don't know which one a them he was gonna use though.

**DOS:** Ya know, way back around 1988, KA6W had a JUG article about a neat electronically controlled 160 meter hearing ant that goes on the top of your tower and controlled from shack. Neat huh? Could re-print that maybe.

**JUG:** A good, short," how-2" like them could help score extra points for a NCCCer. Hey, how come you changed your e-mail to "e26k"? What does that mean?

**DOS:** Well, it's a long story.

**JUG:** Well, then, save it. Should I now call you “e26k”?

**e26k:** That would be appropriate. And what happened to the BIG BIRD AWARD? AAMOUNBAA?

**JUG:** Ahhhhh... Shoot! I was afraid you was gonna ask. ...ahh...I hate to tell ya this. I signed the construction contract with a local craftsman and he started work. But I had a problem. Don't know if I should tell ya....

**e26k:** You gotta tell me. I get e-mails every day asking what that Bird is all about. WRTC People was asking me about it all over Slovenia. You make this Big Splash about the BIG BIRD AWARD and then you stall. Tell me.

**JUG:** I can't tell. Someone might hear.

**e26k:** Whisper to me.

**JUG:** Well....I forgot what the letters mean. I wrote 'em down on a peace of newspaper, and KC6NFE wrapped up the fisheads in the paper. I'm having sessions with a Hipnotis to try to remember. Gotta have the words for the letters to make the plak. Can ya give me another couple week...or a month....or so... I'll try to remember.

**e26k:** Ridiculous. We gotta have that Award built and ready to pass out like we said. Gotta think of my Legacy, ya know. But the big thing now is to get the membership stirred up for the coming contest season.

**JUG:** Right. And what are you doing to stir up your powerful station for the contests.

**e26k:** Oh, I'm developing a 3 receiver station.

**JUG:** Ahhhh...Three? I hearda 2, but how you gonna continuous tune three of 'em?

**e26k:** Two hands and a foot!

**JUG:** I thought you used your foot for the transmit switch.

**e26k:** You think I'm Captain Ahab 'er sumpin? QLF. Like playin' a organ.

**JUG:** How ya twist a dial with your foot?

**e26k:** I'm workin' on that.

**JUG:** You'll write us a story thing about that when you got the details worked out. NOW, everybody RE-READ JAZZNUTT'S recent colyumes. He is the fella leading our NCCC charge into the Twenty Oneth Century Contests.

**e26k:** Yes.... Even if you cain't write good English, the JUGHEAD promises to edit and tidy up your

lousy grammer and speling and give you a bi-lion in the JUG, and receive a valuable AK prize at the next meeting.

**JUG:** Yeah, you're gonna stir things up. That's good for your legacy. You know, e26k, you got Great Good Gravitas!

**e26k:** You mean Gravalax don't ya? Sal-mon's my favorite oodurve, with onions and mayo.

**JUG:** Nooo! I mean a Great Good Gravitas.

**e26k:** I'm who?

**JUG:** You have Gravitas. You're willing to spread it around.

**e26k:** Spread WHAT around?

**JUG:** Ahhhhh.....EVERYBODY READ DOUBLE CROSS'S COLYUME THIS MONTH, and JAZZNUTT's instrsuctions for better operations. And, Ohhhh, Gee e26k, I forgot to say I'm really sorry that your TBD's planted grapes on the neighbor's rainch. But I suppose they can transplant 'em back into your vineyard.

**e26k:** Walllll, that's nice of ya to say that. But actually, I been looking at that 113 acre rainch next door. Think I'll just buy it so's the girls don't feel bad about their goof. Anyway, I always wanted to add another 2300 feet in that direction for my Beaverages. *(Conan; you can have your red pencil back now...ed)*

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

**Place:** Old Spaghetti Factory, Jack London Square, Oakland.

**Menu :** Chicken Parmesan (\$11) or Spaghetti with meat balls (\$10) including salad and dessert.

**Program:** 6PM, schmooze; 6:30PM Dinner; 7:30PM Meeting; “Making CQP a Roaring Success.”

**Parking :** On the street or in the pay lot in front of the restaurant.



### QST – Attention all Radio Amateurs

The Northern California Contest Club is proud to announce the Second Annual “Sierra Chapter” Club meeting being held in Reno, NV. It is open to all amateurs, their spouses and their guests. If you are interested in contesting, curious

about contesting or just want to partake in a fun evening of radio and fellowship, you are invited to attend this social hour, dinner and presentation.

When: **Saturday, September 23, 2000**

- Happy hour (cash bar) from 6:00PM until 7:00PM
- Sit down dinner from 7:00PM until 8:00PM
- Program from 8:00PM until 10:00PM
  - **Recognition of the NCCC participation in WRTC 2000**
  - **Contesting With Wire Antennas Big and Small by Paul Schaffenberg, K5AF (KB8N)**

Where: **The Reno Hilton Casino Resort**, US395 (freeway), Exit Glendale or Mill St.  
In the Shasta Room, Mezzanine Level

Who: Your local hosts are Kurt Andress, K7NV; Tom Taormina, K5RC; Dennis Motschenbacher, K7BV

Travelers: Rooms and packages are available from the Hilton. A block of rooms has been reserved for \$99 per night under the company name Productivity Resources. Reservations can be made at 800-648-5080 or at [www.renohilton.com](http://www.renohilton.com). Room reservations should be made by 9/7 to ensure availability. Provisions are available for RV's. The Hilton is convenient to downtown Reno and many other hotels and casinos. It is also 45 minutes from historic Virginia City and Lake Tahoe.

Locals: **You do not need to attend the dinner to participate.** You are invited to happy hour and/or to attend the program. You do not need to be a NCCC Club member to attend, nor does the NCCC conflict with any local club activities.

Web Sites: [www.nccc.cc](http://www.nccc.cc) (NCCC Club information)  
[www.renotahoefun.com/](http://www.renotahoefun.com/) (Local information and discounts)  
[www.renohilton.com](http://www.renohilton.com) (Reno Hilton)

**Dinner reservations are required in advance. We must give the Hotel a guaranteed number 5 days prior.**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Call(s) \_\_\_\_\_

# of dinners @\$36.00 each \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail address \_\_\_\_\_  
Dinner is a Mexican food buffet (includes tax and gratuity)

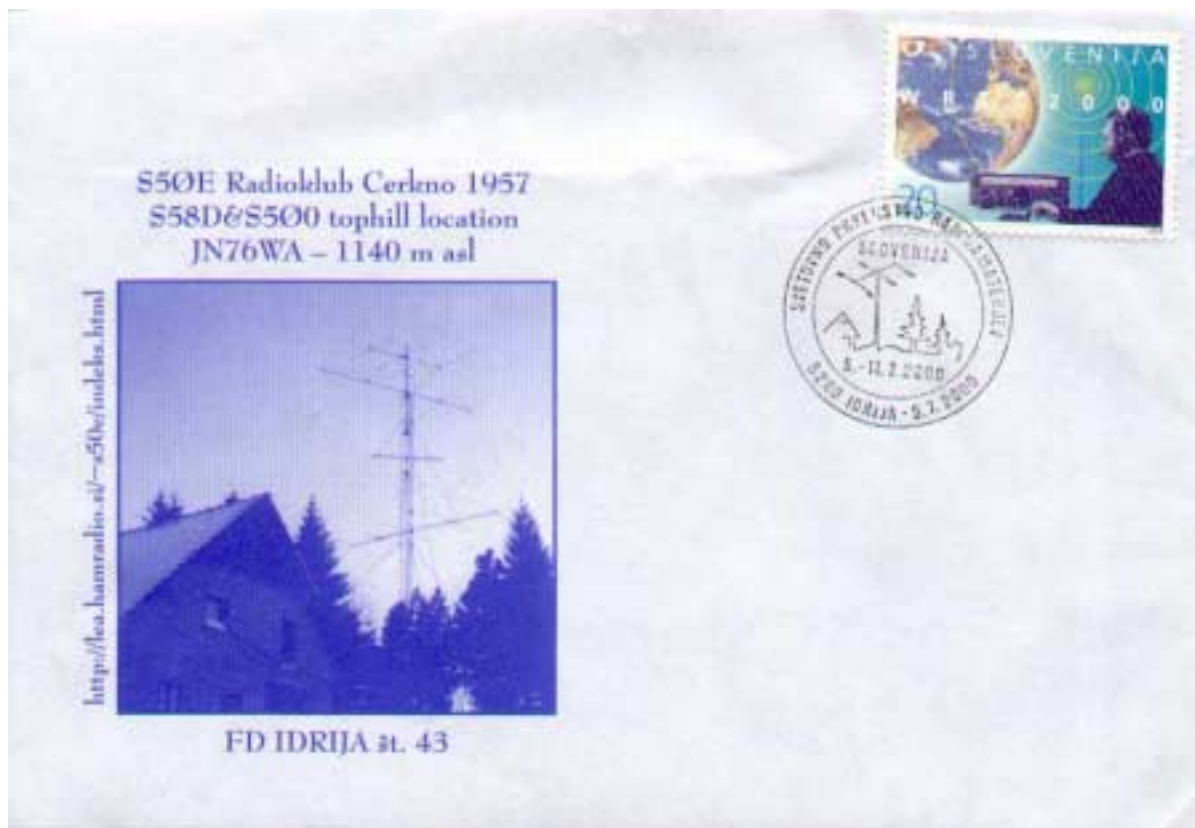
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Mail reservations to same address or FAX to 775-847-7930 .

**Information/RSVP: E-mail: [TomK5RC@aol.com](mailto:TomK5RC@aol.com) or 775-847-7929, FAX 775-847-7930.**

**Please RSVP even if you are not attending the dinner so we have ample seating for the program**



**Slovenia's First Day Cover commemorating WRTC 2000. This was a class act from beginning to end!**



**NCCC's K7BV and WRTC teammate K9ZO with referee, ON4UN.**



**Rusty, W6OAT, “passes the WRTC torch” to Slovenia from northern California. (I can’t read lips, but I think he was saying the phrase below... ed)**

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